

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice, and add new claims 23-29. The status of the claims is as follows:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A direct current cutoff switch, comprising:

a first fixed contact which is formed on a first terminal unit being inside a housing to be connected to an external circuit;

a second fixed contact which is formed on a second terminal unit being inside a housing to be connected to an external circuit and which is disposed next to the first fixed contact;

first and second movable contacts disposed in positions facing the first and second fixed contacts, respectively;

a movable plate with conductivity, a tip of which is fixed to a supporting member of the housing, the other tip being movable upward and downward supporting the first and second movable contacts;

a bi-metal which is engaged in the movable plate and moves the other tip of the movable plate upward and downward by reversing a curving direction using a predetermined temperature, and separates the first and second movable contacts from the first and second fixed contacts;

a PTC (Positive Temperature Coefficient) to be connected between the movable plate, the external circuits connected to the first and second terminal units, and a pair of common sides; wherein

the switch is configured so that when the first and second movable contacts are away from the first and second fixed contacts, a distance between the second movable contact and the second fixed contact becomes greater than a distance between the first movable contact and the first fixed contact.

24. (New) The direct current cutoff switch according to claim 23, wherein

a contact opening voltage at the time of cutoff of a large direct current by opening the first movable contact is located in the range of 28V to 48V.

25. (New) The direct current cutoff switch according to claim 23, wherein

said PTC has an upper limit voltage in which range no thermal runaway occurs or a voltage/current characteristic where a lower peak is in the range of 80V or more.

26. (New) The direct current cutoff switch according to claim 23, wherein

said PTC has a voltage/current characteristic that the position of peak current against voltage in a range where no thermal runaway occurs is located in a range of 2V to 20V.

27. (New) The direct current cutoff switch according to claim 23, wherein

said external circuit is a circuit with rating of direct current 42V or a circuit for driving induction load.

28. (New) The direct current cutoff switch according to claim 23, wherein

in said PTC, Curie temperature (T_c) is set to a value higher than the operating temperature of the bi-metal.

29. (New) The direct current cutoff switch according to claim 23, wherein

said second terminal unit having the second fixed contact is an terminal unit connected to an external circuit on a load side.